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17 JAN 53/7 PM

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FROM: MICO, Bonn

POB

GER press today again headlines stories of 7 "Nazi Plotters" arrested by BRIT. (Words "plot" and "plotters" are placed in quotation marks in most papers.) BR statement that group "was too clever" to have larger organization or have "underground movement" at its disposal was top-played, as was Chancellor's statement that he was merely informed, not consulted and had not consented to action. Main comment continues to be that importance of group does not seem to justify extreme action BR action. Article from Frankfurter Allgemeine summarized below was representative this line in GER press:

"Coalition circles" regret exceedingly, that this action which is concerned with plans of a small group, will undoubtedly lead to a wave of new suspicions against GER democracy and its capacity. One asks why, at this particular moment, an action was undertaken whose foreign policy effects must certainly have been foreseen by all concerned. In any case it is emphasized in Bonn that only a very limited incident is involved, even according to the BR presentation of it."

Editorial in "Welt" also makes representative comment:

"To be sure, Haumann affair is only one in whole row of symptoms. There was notification that we must get along without American help. Then we were

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